

**MINUTES OF THE EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MEETING**

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2008

Hanaford School Cafeteria

200 Middle Road

East Greenwich, RI 02818

**ANY ITEMS CONSIDERED BY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MAY BE
SUBJECT TO A**

VOTE

7:00p.m.

Call to Order

The second October School Committee meeting was called to order at 7:00p.m. in the Hanaford School Cafeteria. Members present were: Sue Cienki, Chair, Skip Day, Vice-Chair, MaryEllen Winters, Anne Palumbo, JeanAnn Guliano, and Susan Records as well as Superintendent Charles Meyer, Special Education Director, Paula Dillon, Director of Administration, Maryanne Crawford, and Athletic Director, Vincent Varrecchione. Mrs. Friedemann was absent.

2. Public Comments

Tony Peduto, from West Greenwich, spoke on behalf of the winter coaches. He noted that coaches have written college recommendation letters for his sons. Students believe that coaches help students to succeed, and stress school work before sports. He feels that there is always someone who has an ax to grind. Bobby Hopkins, a hockey player, spoke in support of the hockey coaching

staff.

Edward Filardo, Carrs Pond road, stated that he has a student still in the system and he presented a letter to the School committee about a lack of reporting incidences and infractions for the hockey program. He noted that there was a significant brawl on the ice which he feels is not a mark of kids respecting their coach. He also spoke about the coach embarrassing a player at the hockey banquet. He added that there is bullying in the high school locker room and at games. He feels there are people who don't want to speak up about these incidences.

Eileen Peduto, Taggart Court, feels that Mr. Filardo is putting every coach under a microscope. She feels that people make mistakes but feels that Mr. Filardo has a personal vendetta against the hockey coach. She feels it is unnecessary to go through this every year.

Mr. Garrett Neaves asked if the teachers' union has given notice about opening up negotiations for a successor agreement, since their contract expires on August 31, 2009. He noted that they must give this notice by December 1, 2008. The Superintendent will then respond.

3. Approval of Minutes – October 7, 2008 meeting

On a motion made by Mr. Palumbo and seconded by Mr. Day the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2008 meeting with a minor change.

4. Financial Report

Mrs. Crawford stated that last fiscal year's audit is almost complete, and the financials will close in mid November. She feels we will have

a small cumulative surplus from a decrease in the surplus. Mrs. Crawford noted that in September our claims exceeded our revenues with West Bay Community Health. She noted that the claims are still high and she anticipates our health care insurance cost is anticipated to go up since our rates are directly impacted by our surplus. Mr. Meyers noted that the Town Manager and Town Council wanted us to surrender the surplus from West Bay and it is a good thing we didn't do it. Mrs. Guliano stated that Mrs. Crawford previously informed the School Committee and Town Council this might happen.

5. New Business

5.1 Appointments

On a motion made by Mrs. Palumbo and seconded by Mr. Day, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the following appointment:

5.1.1 Rachelle Masello, Pre-School Paraprofessional at Meadowbrook Farms, effective 9-3-08

On a motion made by Mrs. Winters and seconded by Mr. Day the committee voted unanimously to approve the following appointment:

5.1.2 Ann O'Grady, Drama Club Advisor at Cole Middle School

5.1.3 Winter Coaches

On a motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Mrs. Palumbo, the Committee voted to approve the following appointment: Mrs. Records abstained.

5.1.3.1 Matthew Records, Head Girls' Basketball Coach at EGHS

Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Guliano to approve the following appointments: Mrs. Guliano stated that she has spoken to the athletic director, hockey coach and one of the parents and has a sense that the bullying policy has been reviewed by all of them and taken very seriously with the players. Mrs. Cienki stated that anyone who volunteers to coach really loves the work but there could be differences of opinion. She noted that she doesn't know all of the coaches but it is a matter of investigating complaints. She feels very uncomfortable not being able to approach the hockey coach and relayed an incident where she felt personally threatened by the coach. On the motion to approve the returning winter coaches, the vote was unanimous with the exception of the hockey coach. That vote passed with Sue Cienki voting no, Mary Ellen Winters abstaining, and Susan Records, William Day, and JeanAnn Guliano voting yes.

5.1.3.2 (These are all returning coaches for EGHS)

Craig MacKenzie, Head Boys' Basketball

Don Bowen, Assistant Boys' Basketball

Stanley Johnson, Head Girls' Track

Nicole Christie, Assistant Girls' Track

Joseph Amato, Head Wrestling

James Westell, Assistant Wrestling

Leonard Kiernan, Head Hockey

Sean Fahey, Assistant Hockey

Lee Walker, Assistant Girls' Basketball

Nitasha Madan, Hockey Cheerleading

Tana Fatkin, Competition/basketball Cheerleading

6. Fiscal Impact Statement on Contract Settlement with Educational Support Staff (EGAESP Union)

Mrs. Crawford noted that the administration achieved the increase in co-shares, made the change from United Health to Healthmate, decreased the buyback amount and achieved a plan re-design. The changes are: For the school years, 2008-2009, 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 a 2.9% increase. Health Care co-share for 2008-2009 for \$40,000 and under 3% co-pay and above \$40,000 a 6% co-pay; for the 2009-2010 school year, for \$36,000 and under a 4% co-pay and above \$36,000 an 8% co-pay; for the 2010-2011 school year for \$36,000 and under a 5% co-pay and above \$36,000 a 10% co-pay; for year one a \$150 reduction in the buy-back, for year 2, a \$400 reduction, and for year 3 a \$500 reduction.

7. Approval of Bid to Gatekeeper Administration and Consulting, LLC for the administration of 403(b) according to IRS regulations

Mrs. Crawford noted that this needs to be done according to IRS Regulations for 403b's. She noted that the regulations allow for either a third party administrator, having it done in-house, or hiring a service provider. She stated that the Rhode Island Association of Business Officials wanted to go out to bid. Mrs. Crawford stated that 12 school districts have already signed on, and the cost to administer the program is minimal. Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Guliano to approve the bid in the amount of \$3123 for the first year, and \$1584 per year after that. The motion passed unanimously.

8. On a motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Mrs. Guliano, the

Committee voted unanimously to approve the following out-of-state field trip to Williamsburg, VA from April 24-27, 2009 for East Greenwich High School Chorus, contingent upon having a ratio of 1 chaperone for every 6 students.

9. On a motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Mrs. Palumbo, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the out-of-state field trip to Salem, MA on October 22, 2008 for a high school English class. The motion passed contingent upon a ratio of 1 chaperone for every 6 students.

10. School Committee Concerns

Mrs. Cienki stated that we should bring in the Advisory Committee to review and advise the School Committee on Teacher Contract Negotiations and make sure they have a copy of the teacher contract.

Mr. Neaves stated that the committee should read the contract as well as Attorney Nicholas Long's commentary and make recommendations on contract language changes. He noted that such recommendations by the Teacher Contract Advisory Committee are entirely non-binding since only the School Committee is able to negotiate with the union. He mentioned a new State Law that says future contracts need a public hearing before they are approved.

It was noted that there will be a Red Ribbon Dinner at Swift Gym on Wednesday, November 29th at 6:00p.m. and everyone is welcome.

Mrs. Palumbo stated that the district list serve should only be used for educational purposes. She also noted that kids are bringing energy drinks to school and drinking them in the classroom. Mrs. Palumbo also stated that the Wellness Committee has done research

on energy drinks and she would like an addendum to the Wellness Policy recommending that students not drink in classrooms.

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11. On a motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Mrs. Guliano, the Committee, being polled individually, voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 8:00p.m. under R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) (1) (2) Custodian and Secretary/Paraprofessional Contract Negotiations, Hearing Officer Decision (Rochefort)

Respectfully submitted,

**Virginia Giuliani
Secretary**